

CLAIMS

1. A recording apparatus for recording contents, said
5 recording apparatus comprising:

a drive unit operable to have a portable recording medium
removably attached;

a relief recording medium;

an obtaining unit operable to obtain specification
10 information which specifies one or more portable recording media
to be used for recording a content;

a recording control unit operable to perform control
so that (i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording
media is attached to said drive unit when the content is to
15 be recorded, the content is recorded onto the attached portable
recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified
portable recording media are attached to said drive unit when
the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto
said relief recording medium; and

20 a dubbing control unit operable to, in a case where one
of the specified portable recording media is attached to said
drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief
recording medium, dub the recorded content from said relief
recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording

media.

2. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein
the specification information specifies one portable
5 recording medium, using a piece of identification information
which uniquely identifies the one portable recording medium;
and

said recording control unit judges that the specified
portable recording medium is attached to said drive unit when
10 a currently attached portable recording medium is identified
with the piece of identification information.

3. The recording apparatus of Claim 2, wherein
the specified portable recording medium has the piece
15 of identification information recorded thereon; and

said recording control unit makes the judgment by
comparing the piece of identification information recorded on
a currently attached portable recording medium with the piece
of identification information used by the specification
20 information.

4. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein
the specification information specifies the one or more
portable recording media, using a piece of identification

information that identifies a group made up of the one or more portable recording media; and

said recording control unit judges that one of the specified portable recording media is attached to said drive unit when a currently attached portable recording medium belongs to the group identified with the piece of identification information.

5. The recording apparatus of Claim 4, wherein

each of the one or more specified portable recording media has the piece of identification information recorded thereon, the piece of identification information showing the group to which each recording medium belongs; and

said recording control unit makes the judgment by comparing the piece of identification information recorded on a currently attached portable recording medium with the piece of identification information used by the specification information.

6. The recording apparatus of Claim 4, further comprising a list storing unit that stores a list showing the one or more specified portable recording media belonging to the group;

wherein said recording control unit makes the judgment

by referring to the list.

7. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

said obtaining unit is further operable to obtain time
5 information which indicates a time at which the content is
broadcasted as a broadcast program, and

the recording control unit performs the control so that
the content is recorded at the time indicated by the time
information.

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8. The recording apparatus of Claim 7, wherein:

the obtaining unit obtains the specification information
and the time information based on a piece of preprogramming
information provided by a user who preprograms the recording
15 of the content.

9. The recording apparatus of Claim 7, wherein:

the specification information specifies one portable
recording medium;

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a piece of preset information is recorded on the specified
portable recording medium, the piece of preset information
instructing that the content should be recorded and including
the time information; and

when the piece of preset information is read from the

portable recording medium, the obtaining unit obtains (i) the specification information for instructing that the content should be recorded onto the portable recording medium having the piece of preset information, and (ii) the time information
5 included in the piece of preset information.

10. The recording apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising an area releasing unit operable to, in a case where after the time indicated by the time information has arrived and the
10 content is not recorded on either of said relief recording medium and the specified portable recording medium having the piece of preset information recorded thereon, release an area that is within the specified portable recording medium having the piece of preset information and is reserved for the recording
15 of the content.

11. The recording apparatus of Claim 9, further comprising: an area releasing unit operable to, in a case where the piece of preset information is deleted from the specified
20 portable recording medium, release an area that is within the specified portable recording medium having the piece of preset information and is reserved for the recording of the content.

12. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, wherein:

the content is a piece of image data included in communication data which the recording apparatus receives from an external device operable to communicate with said recording apparatus;

5 the obtaining unit obtains the specification information from the communication data; and

 said recording control unit performs the control of recording the content when said recording apparatus has received the communication data from the external device.

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13. The recording apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising a list storing unit that stores a list showing options of portable recording media among which the one or more portable recording media specified in the specification information can
15 be selected from; and

 a notifying unit operable to notify the external device of the options of the portable recording media shown in the list.

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14. The recording apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a presenting unit operable to present a warning to a user when the content has been recorded onto said relief recording medium.

15. The recording apparatus of Claim 14, wherein:
the warning presented by said presenting unit suggests
that one of the specified portable recording media should be
attached to said drive unit.

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16. The recording apparatus of Claim 14, further comprising
a list storing unit that stores a list showing one or
more portable recording media, wherein

in a case where at least one of the specified portable
10 recording media is shown in the list, said presenting unit
presents a warning which suggests that the at least one of the
specified portable recording media should be attached to said
drive unit; and

in a case where none of the specified portable recording
15 media are shown in the list, said presenting unit presents a
warning which suggests that any portable recording medium except
for the one or more portable recording media shown in the list
should be attached to said drive unit.

20 17. An integrated circuit for a recording apparatus which
includes a drive unit operable to have a portable recording
medium removably attached and a relief recording medium, said
integrated circuit comprising:

an obtaining unit operable to obtain specification

information which specifies one or more portable recording media to be used for recording a content;

a recording control unit operable to perform control so that (i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto the attached portable recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified portable recording media are attached to the drive unit when the content is to be recorded, the content is recorded onto the relief recording medium; and

a dubbing control unit operable to, in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief recording medium, dub the recorded content from the relief recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording media.

18. A computer program to be executed by a computer which includes a drive unit operable to have a portable recording medium removably attached and a relief recording medium, said computer program comprising:

program code operable to cause the computer to obtain specification information which specifies one or more portable recording media to be used for recording a content;

program code operable to cause the computer to, (i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit when the content is to be recorded, record the content onto the attached portable recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified portable recording media are attached to the drive unit when the content is to be recorded, record the content onto the relief recording medium; and

program code operable to cause the computer to, in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief recording medium, dub the recorded content from the relief recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording media.

19. A content recording method used by a recording apparatus that includes a drive unit operable to have a portable recording medium removably attached and a relief recording medium, said content recording method comprising:

obtaining specification information which specifies one or more portable recording media to be used for recording a content;

(i) in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit when the content is to be

recorded, recording the content onto the attached portable recording medium, and (ii) in a case where none of the specified portable recording media are attached to the drive unit when the content is to be recorded, recording the content onto the relief recording medium; and

in a case where one of the specified portable recording media is attached to the drive unit after the content has been recorded onto the relief recording medium, dubbing the recorded content from the relief recording medium onto the one of the specified portable recording media.

20. A recording medium comprising:

a piece of preset information for instructing a recording apparatus to record a content;

wherein said piece of preset information includes:

program information for identifying a broadcast program for broadcasting the content;

specification information for instructing that the content should be recorded onto said recording medium; and

area information for specifying a preprogramming area within said recording medium into which only the content is allowed to be recorded.